

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An extruded strip form silicon carbide~~ A furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having in which the strip has a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1, ~~wherein in which the element strip~~ is non-hollow.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 5:1.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 10:1.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, ~~in which the element further~~ comprises non-strip form cold ends.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, ~~in which portions of the strip have a lowered resistivity and further comprises strip-form cold ends having resistivity lower than that of the heating section.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 6, in which~~ wherein the strip comprises a planar portion and a portion that is bent out of the plane of the planar portion strip.

8. (Currently Amended) A The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 7, in which the strip form element is~~ generally U-shaped.

9. (Currently Amended) A The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 8, in which~~ wherein at least a portion of the strip is has a curved in cross-section in at least part of its length.

10. (Currently Amended) A The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 9, in which the heating section comprises a~~ recrystallised self-bonded silicon carbide material.

11. (Currently Amended) A The furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 9, in which the heating element comprises~~ reaction bonded or reaction sintered silicon carbide.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a furnace heating element as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim 1 to 11, in which~~ comprising:

extruding a heating section strip preform ~~is made by extrusion, and~~
~~is bent~~ bending the extruded preform to shape prior to drying or firing after
extrusion.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 12, ~~in~~
~~which~~ further comprising:

separately forming cold ends ~~are made separately to the heating section, and~~

joining the separately formed cold ends to the heating section ~~later jointed to~~
it.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 12, ~~in~~
~~which~~ further comprising integrally forming cold ends ~~are formed integrally~~ with the
heating section element.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~Claims Claim~~ 12 ~~to 14, in which the~~ further comprising recrystallizing the heating
section ~~is recrystallised~~ to form a self-bonded silicon carbide material.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims Claim~~ 12 ~~to 14, in which~~ wherein the material of the extruded preform is such
that the final product will comprise reaction bonded or reaction sintered silicon
carbide.

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the
strip is hollow.

18. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the
cross-sectional aspect ratio is around 12:1.